

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:ARLAY:PDW

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

S/S - CABORG

NEA:ALATHERTON

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R 152354Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194678

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWS

REF: DAMASCUS 3107

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SISCO

1. YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME TO RAISE WITH SARG EXIT VISA CASE SENT YOU BY CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ. WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO IDEA OF HELPING ARRANGE EXIT VISAS FOR SYRIAN JEWISH RELATIVES OF U.S. CITIZENS, AND WILL WANT YOU TO RAISE IT AT SOME EARLY DATE. AT PRESENT DELICATE STAGE OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, AND WITH POSSIBILITY OF VISIT BY SECRETARY TO THE AREA, WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO PUT THIS MATTER INTO PLAY AT THE MOMENT BETWEEN US AND SYRIANS. SINCE THIS PERIOD OF DELICACY WILL PROBABLY LAST ONLY MATTER OF FEW WEEKS, I WOULD THINK YOU COULD ASSURE SOLARZ THAT YOU WOULD UNDERTAKE TO RAISE REQUEST AND THEN HOLD IT UNTIL THE RIGHT
CONFIDENTIAL

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TIME.

2. SUGGEST YOU TELL SOLARZ THAT, AS HE KNOWS, USG ANXIOUS TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO HELP SYRIAN JEWRY. SINCE CASE WILL

OBVIOUSLY NEED DECISION AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN SYRIAN

GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, APPROACH TO SARG MUST BE HANDLED
WITH SOME CARE. ASSURE HIM THAT YOU WILL SEEK FAVORABLE
OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE IT. SISCO

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